

IN THE CLAIMS

Please replace claims 1, 5, 8, and 17 with the following claims of the same claim number:

- Sub. C1* →
- B1*
1. (amended) A method of packing and unpacking a column chamber, comprising the steps of:
flowing a mixture of a matrix material and fluid into a column chamber and forming a packed column from the matrix material, said column chamber having a first port for receiving said mixture, and outlet port and an actuator port wherein said actuator port is provided as having a rod having a binary end placed within said actuator port wherein said binary end of said rod blocks the flow of said matrix material to said outlet port in a first position, permits the flow of said matrix material to said outlet port in a second position, and allows the flow of said fluid through said outlet port in all positions;
capturing said matrix material and permitting said fluid to flow therepast by positioning said binary end of said rod in said first position; and
opening said outlet by positioning said binary end of said rod in said second position, thereby permitting said matrix material and said fluid to flow through said outlet port thereby unpacking the matrix material from the column chamber.

- Sub. C2* →
- B2*
5. (twice amended) A method of forming a packed column comprising:
providing a column chamber, the column chamber having an inlet end and an outlet end, the outlet end having an actuator port and a flow port, the flow port alternately open or partially obstructed by a binary end of a rod placed in the actuator port wherein said binary end of said rod blocks the flow of a matrix material in a first position, permits the flow of said matrix material in a second position, and allows the flow of a fluid in all positions; and

B2
cont.

flowing a mixture of a first fluid and a matrix material into the column chamber through the inlet end for packing the matrix material within the column chamber.

Def. C3

B3

8. (amended) A method for purifying a component of a sample comprising: providing a column chamber, the column chamber having an inlet end and an outlet end, the outlet end having an actuator port and a flow port, the flow port alternately open or partially obstructed about a binary end of a rod placed in the actuator port wherein said binary end of said rod blocks the flow of a matrix material in a first position, permits the flow of said matrix material in a second position, and allows the flow of a fluid in all positions;

flowing a first fluid and a matrix material into the column chamber through the inlet end and along a first flow path to form a packed column of the matrix material within the column chamber, the rod holding the matrix material and permitting flow of the first fluid therethrough, the matrix material being configured to selectively retain a component of the sample; flowing the sample through the packed column for separating the component from the rest of the sample; unobstructing the flow port; and flowing a second fluid through the column to remove the matrix material from the column chamber.

Def. C4

B4

17. (amended) A method for purifying a biological sample comprising: providing a column chamber, the column chamber having an inlet end and an outlet end, the outlet end having an actuator port and a flow port, the flow port partially obstructed with a rod with a binary end wherein said binary end of said rod blocks the flow of a matrix material in a first position, permits the flow of said matrix material in a second position, and allows the flow of a fluid in all positions; flowing a mixture of a first fluid and a matrix material into the column

B4
cont

chamber to form a packed column of the matrix material within the column chamber, the matrix material being configured to selectively retain a biological sample;
flowing a sample containing the biological sample through the packed column to separate the biological sample from other components of the sample; flowing a second fluid through the column chamber to remove the matrix material from the column chamber.

Pursuant to rule 121(c)(3), the version of the amended claims to show changes made is submitted in a separate paper enclosed herein.

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS

Claims 1, 5, 8 and 17 (and all other remaining claims by virtue of dependency) have been amended to recite the limitation that binary end of the rod blocks the flow of a matrix material in a first position, permits the flow of the matrix material in a second position, and allows the flow of a fluid in all positions. Support for these amendments can be found at page 8, lines 16-18. Pursuant to rule 121(c)(3), the version of the amended claims to show changes made is submitted in a separate paper enclosed herein.

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-17 over Rigby, and has argued that Rigby is *capable* of providing a fully open and partially obstructed flowpath, and has proposed the substitution of the Rigby valve with that of the admitted prior art. Accordingly, the Applicant has amended the claims to require the binary end of the Applicant's rod allow the flow of a fluid in all positions, a limitation which the Applicant specifically teaches in the Specification, and which the Examiner has admitted Rigby lacks. The Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objections.